



## How Do We Prepare Children for Elementary School in Our Nursery?

Dear Parents,

the start of school attendance is a big change for a child, one they must be able to cope with and be prepared for. A brand-new first-grader will have to adapt to a new daily routine, a group of other children, and the authority of a teacher. The greatest challenge is often the ability to focus on less attractive activities, to understand many new things – and above all, to enjoy it, to feel satisfaction that will ease the path toward individual academic success.

As parents of a future first-grader, you are surely asking how we prepare children for school attendance. You may also be thinking about the specific activities included in our pre-school preparation.

Here are several areas to which we pay close attention and strive to develop:

- 1 **MEMORY** – We train memory through memory games (e.g. memory pairs, puzzles, the Kim game...)
- 2 **ATTENTION** – We aim to increase the length of time a child can concentrate on one activity. Children guess what has changed, solve riddles, deliver messages, repeat sentences, and correct "mistakes" in familiar stories.
- 3 **NUMERICAL CONCEPTS** – We develop numerical understanding by estimating quantities, comparing, subtracting and adding objects, pacing, and clapping.
- 4 **AUDITORY AND VISUAL DISTINCTION** – We assemble pictures, repeat words and sentences, practise the pronunciation of more difficult words, distinguish mirror shapes, and identify initial and final sounds in words.
- 5 **VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT** – We invent rhymes, look for synonyms and antonyms, and search for superordinate and subordinate words.
- 6 **SPEECH AND THINKING DEVELOPMENT** – We sort objects by specific features (colour, shape, size), name things using one word, say opposites (big–small), describe characteristics, compare objects (smaller–bigger), solve situations (what would you do if...), solve riddles, identify what does not belong, discuss books, and describe what the child has drawn.
- 7 **GRAPHIC SKILLS** – The child continues pre-drawn patterns (waves on the sea, smoke from a chimney, yarn, rain), colours pictures without crossing lines, and traces geometric shapes.
- 8 **MOTOR SKILLS** – We practise tactile recognition of objects, modelling, stringing beads, cutting, imitating animal movements, and performing gymnastic exercises (somersaults, squats, cat stretch).
- 9 **INDEPENDENCE** – In self-care, dressing, putting on shoes, eating, communication, self-expression, etc. The child understands instructions and is able to take care of their belongings (recognise them safely).
- 10 **COMMUNICATION** – We encourage children to cooperate, participate in group games, follow behavioural rules, manage emotional expressions appropriately, and support prosocial behaviour.